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Docket No.: 1152-0311PUS1

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Hiroyuki KATATA et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP03/05380

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned Art Unit: N/A

Filed: October 19, 2004 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE

DECODING APPARATUS, RECORDING MEDIUM AND IMAGE RECORDING

APPARATUS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.